

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-20 ACDA-12 /113 W

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P 031410Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WAHSDC PRIORITY 869

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

UNCLAS PRETORIA 1836

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: DETAILS ON MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

REF: PRETORIA 1770

1. PRESS ACCOUNTS STATE THAT LAST WEEKS MEETINGS TO SORT OUT MINISTERIAL COUNCIL PORTFOLIOS ENDED IN AN IMPASSE AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EC) IS TO MEET AGAIN ON APRIL 4 TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS. SITHOLE REPORTEDLY CANCELLED A TRIP PLANNED FOR MALAWI IN ORDER TO ATTEND THE MEETING.

2. MEANWHILE, THE EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED MARCH 26 COPY OF RHODESIAN HERALD WHICH GIVES SOME GREATER DETAIL ON THE

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PROPOSED MINISTERIAL COUNCIL. THE NINE PORTFOLIOS IN THE NEW INTERIM GOVERNMENT ARE TO BE CREATED BY COMBINING CERTAIN OF THE OLD TWELVE MINISTERIAL POSITIONS. THE NEW MINISTERIES ARE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, COMBINED WITH FINANCE; EDUCATION, COMBINED WITH HEALTH, MANPOWER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS; AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMBINED WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND WORKS.

THESE ARE ADDED TO THE UNCHANGED MINISTERIES OF INFORMATION, IMMIGRATION AND TOURISM; COMBINED OPERATIONS AND DEFENSE; INTERNAL AFFAIRS; FOREIGN AFFAIRS; JUSTICE, AND AGRICULTURE.

3. THE ARTICLE CITES CABINET SECREATRY JACK GAYLORD AS SAYING THAT WHITE MINISTERS WHOSE PORTFOLIOS HAVE BEEN COMBINED WILL NOT "AUTOMATICALLY" LOST OFFICE. SMITH, GAYLORD SYAS, WILL APPOINT THE NINE WHITES AND HE HAS NOT YET DISCLOSED HIS NOMINEES. THE BLACK MINISTERS WILL BE APPOINTED, THREE EACH, BY THE THREE NATIONALIST LEADERS. ON OFFICE PERQUISITES, GAYLORD SYAS THAT THE BLACK EC MEMBERS WILL BE OFFICIALLY MINISTERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIOS. THEREFORE, WHILE RECEIVING A HIGHER SALARY THAN A NORMAL MINISTER, THEY WILL RECEIVE SLIGHTLY LESS THAN SMITH. GAYLORD EXPLAINED THAT SMITH IS STILL CONSTITUTIONALLY THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE LEADER OF THE "MAJORITY PARTY" IN PARLIAMENT, THEREFORE HE GETS A HIGHER SALARY. ALL THREE BLACKS, LIKE SMITH, WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN OFFICIAL RESIDENCE AND OFFICIAL CAR.
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